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<> MOSCOW ENVISAGES FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS IN <><>AFGHANISTAN<><>
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MOSCCW WORLD SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1531 GMT 12 OCT 86

((STATION OBSERVER COMMENTARY))

<> ((TEXT)) A RADIO MOSCOW OBSERVER NOW LOOKS AT THE WORLD COMMENT
 ON THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP'S DECISION TO BEGIN WITHDRAWING SIX
 REGIMENTS FROM <><>AFGHANISTAN<><>. THIS STEP BY THE SOVIET UNION HAS
 MET WITH UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIALIST AND MOST
 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE BROADEST CIRCLES OF THE WORLD PUBLIC.
 THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD HAVE APPRECIATED THE SOVIET
 DECISION. AS FOR THE REACTION OF THOSE WHO ARE FAR FROM BEING
 <> FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC <><>AFGHANISTAN<><>, THEY HAVE DIVIDED IN THEIR
 APPROACH TO THE USSR'S POSITION. ON THE ONE HAND THE
 REALISTICALLY-MINDED POLITICIANS IN THE WEST, WHO FEEL RESPONSIBILITY
 FOR THE WORLD'S FUTURE, SEE THE SOVIET DECISION AS A MAJOR FAVORABLE
 MOVE CAPABLE OF SPEEDING UP POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GIVING IT A FRESH
 <> IMPETUS, CREATING A FAVORABLE CLIMATE AT THE <><>AFGHAN-PAKISTANI<><>
 TALKS IN GENEVA.

ON THE OTHER HAND SOME POLITICIANS, FOR INSTANCE OFFICIALS IN
 THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT, HAVE TRIED TO BELITTLE THE
 IMPORTANCE OF THAT DECISION. MOREOVER THEY HAVE TRIED TO QUESTION
 THE SINCERITY OF THE USSR'S INTENTIONS TO RETURN THE SIX REGIMENTS
 HOME. MEANWHILE MIKHAIL GORBACHEV HAS SAID CLEARLY THAT THE SOVIET

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TROOPS WILL RETURN TO THEIR PERMANENT LOCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION SO THAT EVERYBODY WHO WANTS TO WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THIS FOR HIMSELF. OUR PRINCIPLE IS ALWAYS TO ACT ON OUR WORDS. THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE PROVED THIS WITH NUMEROUS ACTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

AS FOR ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF MISTRUST AND SCEPTICISM AROUND THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW PART OF THE SOVIET TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN, THEY ARE NOT NEW. IT'S FOR NEARLY 70 YEARS NOW, SINCE THE FIRST DECREE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON PEACE, THAT THE USSR'S PEACE PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES HAVE MET WITH HYSTERICAL CALLS IN THE WEST NOT TO BELIEVE THE RUSSIANS. THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROVED WITH ACTION ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE POLICY OF PEACE. IT'S FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS OBSERVED ITS UNILATERAL MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, THEREBY CONVINCING EVER MORE PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD THAT IT CAN AND MUST BE TRUSTED.

<> REGRETTABLY WASHINGTON HAS SO FAR FAILED TO GIVE AN APPROPRIATE ANSWER TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP'S DECISION ON <><>AFGHANISTAN<><> WHICH IS EVIDENCE OF ITS GOODWILL. MEANWHILE MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S STATEMENT THAT AS SOON AS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET TROOPS FROM <><>AFGHANISTAN<><> CAN BE SPEEDED UP TESTIFIES TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET DECISION IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP, WHICH CAN BE FOLLOWED BY A SECOND AND A THIRD. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING AND CARRYING OUT ARMED INTERVENTION IN <><>AFGHANISTAN<><> ARE EXPECTED TO RECIPROCATATE BY CURTAILING THEIR INTERFERENCE. OTHERWISE THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT LEAVE ITS NEIGHBOR IN THE LURCH. MIKHAIL GORBACHEV HAS SAID THAT THOSE WHO ENCOURAGE AND FUND THE UNDECLARED WAR AGAINST <><>AFGHANISTAN<><> AND THOSE FROM WHOSE TERRITORY THAT WAR IS BEING WAGED MUST BE AWARE OF THIS.

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